

TETTENHALL
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT FOR 1896.

TETTENHALL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1896.

13th ANNUAL REPORT.

Population Census, 1881	...	...	...	...	4636
„ „ 1891 (June)	...	...	...	...	5145
Population estimated by natural increase to June, 1896					5434
Area in Statute Acres	...	...	...	...	1220
Inhabited Houses, 1881	...	...	...	...	940
„ „ 1891	...	...	...	...	1056
Tettenhall Local Board Constituted	...	...	...	...	1883
Adoption of Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	1887
„ Notification Act	...	...	...	...	1889
Sewerage Works commenced 1890, finished	...	...	...	...	1892
Isolation Hospital provided	...	...	...	...	1891

TABLES.

A—Tables of Deaths.

B—Table of Population, Births, and New Cases of Infectious Diseases.

C—Table of Epidemics from 1883 to 1896.

D—Table of Scarlet Fever.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1896.

To the Chairman of the Tettenhall District Council.

Sir,

During the year 1896 there were 148 Births and 58 Deaths in your District.

Estimating the Population at 5434 in June—an increase of 59 over the previous year—that would give a Birth Rate of 27·2, and a Death Rate of 10·6. The Infant Mortality was 114·8.

The subjoined Table gives at a glance the Vital Statistics for six years.

It will be remembered that the Epidemic of Diphtheria accounts for the High Death Rate of 1895.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1891	5145	135	62	26·2	12·0
1892	5239	128	68	24·2	12·9
1893	5314	154	77	28·9	14·4
1894	5344	142	69	26·5	12·9
1895	5385	132	110	24·5	20·4
1896	5434	148	58	27·2	10·6

There were 4 Deaths from Diphtheria ; 2 from Whooping Cough ; 1 from Diarrhoea ; 5 from Tuberculosis ; 5 from Diseases of the Lungs ; 8 from Heart Disease ; and 33 from all other Diseases.

Seven Deaths were uncertified, 5 being attributed to Premature Birth, and 2 to Whooping Cough.

There were 5 Inquests, a verdict of "Natural Causes" being returned in 3 instances, "Convulsions" in another, and "Found Drowned" in the fifth.

Out of 40 cases of Diphtheria notified there were 4 Deaths. That is a mortality of $\cdot 7$ per 1000 of the population or 10 per cent. of the cases notified. In 1895 there were 60 cases notified with 15 Deaths—thus 25 per cent. or 1 in 4 died, giving a mortality of $2\cdot 7$ per 1000.

This illustrates the fact that the longer an epidemic lasts, the less virulent it becomes.

Two fatal cases of Whooping Cough had not the advantage of medical attendance, and probably succumbed to the popular belief that Whooping Cough is a harmless domestic ailment.

The Mortality from Diarrhoea has been very low for the past two years ($\cdot 37$ per 1000 in 1895, and $\cdot 18$ in 1896), a result which may be reasonably attributed to the improved sanitation of the District, both in deep drainage and cleansing of the Smeestow Brook.

Under the head of Phthisis are classed three cases of pulmonary consumption and two of tuberculosis disease of the Intestines.

There is an encouraging diminution of deaths from Respiratory affections, due to the mild winter. There were 5 deaths in 1896 as compared with 22 in 1895, but in the 8 fatal heart cases death was accelerated by lung trouble in 3 instances.

Only one fatal case of Influenza is reported, although the disease was prevalent in a mild form during the autumn and early winter.

Among the 33 deaths relegated to the last column in Table A, may be mentioned Apoplexy, a case of Meningitis, an obscure brain affection, a case of cancer of the liver and one of intestinal obstruction, besides some cases of convulsions in children.

Infectious Diseases. Ninety-six cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz. :—Scarlet Fever, 50 ; Diphtheria, 40 ; Typhoid 1 ; and Erysipelas, 5.

The Notification Act was adopted in 1889 and each year there has been less difficulty in securing information with regard to the public health of the district. The sentimental objections to that Act are obsolete both in the minds of the public and of the medical profession. The public recognise the benefit of an Isolation Hospital and the assistance rendered by the Council in matters of disinfection, while the medical profession understand that there is no desire to interfere with their relations to their patients, providing that infectious cases are efficiently detached from their neighbours.

To refresh the memories of the Council some repetition of previous reports is necessary.

Diphtheria. In 1892 six cases of Diphtheria were reported; in 1893, one; in 1894 twelve cases, of which five were fatal, were notified; in 1895 there were sixty cases with fifteen deaths.

In 1896 there were 40 cases of Diphtheria in 33 houses, with 4 deaths. 23 of these were at Tettenhall Wood, 8 at Compton, 5 at Wightwick, 2 at Tettenhall, and 2 at Finchfield. 31 patients were over 5 years of age and 9 under 5.

The disease was distributed through the year as follows:—
Jan., 8 cases; Feb., 5; Mar., 17; April, 2; July, 4; Sept., 2; Nov., 1; Dec., 1.

The Tettenhall Wood Schools were closed from Dec. 9th to Mar. 2nd. The opening of the Schools was attended by an increase of the epidemic (viz.: 12 cases at Tettenhall Wood, 3 at Compton, 1 at Wightwick, and 1 at Finchfield), but it was felt that the further closure of the Schools would lead to a complete dislocation of the educational work of the district. Children were being sent to other Schools in Wolverhampton and elsewhere, and we have no means of knowing how far they carried the disease to other districts.

Scarlet Fever. Particulars of Scarlet Fever from 1892 to the present year are given in Table. D.

In 1896 50 cases in 34 houses were notified, 33 cases were treated in Hospital. 44 cases occurred at Tettenhall, 4 at Compton, and 2 at Tettenhall Wood. 2 deaths occurred in Hospital.

In Jan. a boy contracted Scarlet Fever in the Lower Street. A fortnight later a boy at Stockwell End and a girl in Lower Street were attacked.

In Feb. another case occurred at Stockwell End, and one on the Upper Green. In Mar. a third case was reported from Stockwell End and one from Water Works Lane. In April there were 8 notifications, 6 in the village of Tettenhall, 1 in Water Works Lane, and 1 at Claregate. In May 3 cases occurred in Tettenhall and 1 in Water Works Lane. In June 4 children in adjoining houses at Compton were attacked at the same time. There were also 2 cases in Tettenhall village and 2 in Water Works Lane. In July 9 cases were reported, 4 in Lime Street, 2 in Nursery Walk, 1 in Water Works Lane, 1 in Wrottesley Road, and 1 in Orme's Lane, Tettenhall Wood. 5 cases in Aug. took place in Tettenhall and 1 at Tettenhall Wood. In Sept. there was 1 case and Oct. 4, all in Tettenhall. 2 cases were notified from Tettenhall in Nov., and 1 in Dec.

Of this number only 15 children were under 5 years of age, while 16 were between 15 and 33 years old.

It may be remarked that in some cases in which every attention was paid to disquamation of the skin, discharges from the ear were overlooked. In two cases at least discharge from the ear in children otherwise well was credited as the source of infection to others.

Typhoid Fever. A single case of Typhoid was reported. The record of Typhoid is as follows :—1890, 3 ; 1891, 3 ; 1892, 6 ; 1893, 6 ; 1894, 2 ; 1895, 2.

Erysipelas. 5 cases of Erysipelas were notified.

Happily no case of **Puerperal Fever** occurred during the year.

A good many cases of Whooping Cough came under my notice in the autumn, especially at Compton, while Epidemic Influenza has increased with the severity of the weather.

Owing to a statement made at the March Meeting of the Council, I was directed to inspect the Tettenhall Reservoir. This I did on 1st April with Mr. E. A. B. Woodward, the Engineer to the Water Works.

To him I am indebted for the following facts, which are condensed in this report :—

The Reservoir is 19-ft. deep from the top sill to the bed. As a rule it contains from 16 to 17-ft. of water. With 16-ft. of water the Reservoir holds 10,000,000 gallons, the equivalent to a 3 days supply for the district.

The source of supply is from Cosford.

The water is forced from Cosford to the Tettenhall Reservoir. It is drawn from the Reservoir by the Tettenhall engines and forced to Goldthorn Hill, supplying the town of Wolverhampton and district en route.

The water enters the Reservoir near the corner in Wrottesley Road, and is taken out by the pumps from the opposite corner in Water Works Lane, so that there is a constant stream of water through the Reservoir.

Before leaving the Reservoir the water passes through gauze screens, having 625 meshes to the square inch.

These screens are frequently taken out and washed under pressure from the mains.

The Reservoir cannot be emptied without stopping the water supply of the district, but weeds are frequently removed by dredging.

Sewage contamination is impossible as (i) the bottom of the bed is puddled, (ii) it is above the level of the surrounding land, (iii) the pressure of the water is too great to admit soakage.

8 specimens of water were taken for analysis and 6 condemned.

Water Supply. The water mains have been extended 484 yards within the district.

Seventy houses have had tap water laid on during the year, while in 1895 only 44 houses were connected to the public supply. Mr. Mortimer attributes the fact of so many houses being connected to the long continued drought which dried up many wells.

Soft water cisterns again attract unfavourable comment from the Inspectors. In my reports for 1892 and 1893 it was noticed that they are generally underground and oftener under house floors, the favourite site being the neighbourhood of the sink. Water from the sink penetrates through the bricks and not only fouls the soft water but the cistern being unventilated the foul air it contains escapes into the house, especially at night time. It is also remarked that the overflow is connected with the drains, so that these cisterns may become resevoirs of sewer gas or even receive back pondage from the sewers themselves.

These cisterns are also a source of damp, yet there are no bye laws to control their structure, situation, or ventilation.

The hardness of tap water and motives of economy in the quantity of soap used, and the amount of the water rate, furnish arguments in favour of soft water cisterns.

But Mr. Mortimer very properly points out that soft water is not the ideal product of the clouds, but a solution containing the washings of house tops and yards and is often polluted by soakage from middens and sinks.

Sewerage. "During the year 170 houses were connected with the Sewers, making a total of 1026 houses in communication with the Sewerage system. Several connections for out-buildings such as stables are not included in these numbers.

"The Sewers beside being automatically flushed with tap water are periodically examined and flushed with water from a water cart.

"The Deakin Sewer Gas Destructor at Stockwell End appears to have given satisfaction.

"Two Sewer Gas Ventilating Columns 30-ft. high are now fixed at the top of Mill Lane, Tettenhall Wood, and in Water Works Lane.

"There are Sewer Ventilating Shafts in Grove Lane, Mount Road, Orme's Lane, and School Road," all along the ridge of Tettenhall Wood.

"Fewer complaints as to smells from sewer gratings were made during the year than in any year previous."

The Inspectors of Nuisances, Mr. Mortimer and Mr. Cadwallader, have made 24 inspections of Dairies and Milk-shops ; 38 of Cow-sheds ; 28 of Bake-houses ; and 24 of Slaughter-houses.

91 Nuisances from Ash-pits and Privies were abated in 90 instances ; 31 Deposits of Refuse and Manure dealt with ; of 26 Blocked Drains 24 were remedied ; improperly kept poultry reported and dealt with in 2 cases.

The two houses at Wightwick belonging to Mr. Martin Wilkes, were condemned last year as unsanitary. They have since passed into the possession of Mr. Theodore Mander. Mr. Mander has pulled down these houses, and built others on the Bridgnorth Road for the accommodation of the tenants of the old houses.

6 houses unfit for habitation are under consideration, and 3 cases of Overcrowding abated 45 houses were disinfected, and School Notices issued in 47 instances.

13 Cow-sheds, 4 Bake-houses, and 16 Slaughter-houses were lime washed.

Altogether the Inspector's Report is a good record.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
W. H. T. WINTER.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1896.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.

(A) Deaths Registered during the year 1896, showing also the Births therein during the year.

Population		Registered Births.		Deaths from all causes at subjoined ages.										Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under 5 years of age.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.	Males.	Females.	Total.	At all ages.			Under 1 year	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Under 5	..	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.				Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea or Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Aque.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
					Males.	Females.	Total.													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.														Puerperal.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1896.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.

B. New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year, 1896, enumerating the Number of Houses Infected, the Total Number of Deaths, also the Number of Cases Treated and the Deaths that occurred in Infectious Hospitals.

Houses Infected	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
73		34	33			1					5		
Total Cases reported among persons belonging to District	Under 5...	15	9								1		X
5 & upwds.		35	31			1					4		X
Total deaths reported among persons belonging to District	Under 5..		4										
5 & upwds.													
Cases treated in Hospital among persons belonging to District	Under 5...	8											
5 & upwds.		24											
Deaths occurring in Hospital among persons belonging to District	Under 5...	2											
5 & upwds.													

X Prevalent.

SCARLET FEVER.

TABLE D.

Year.	Rent of Hospital.	Charges for Board and Treatment in Hospital.	No. of days charged at		No. of Patients in Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.	Patients not treated in Hospital.	No. of Deaths in Patients not treated in Hospital.
1892	.. £40	£16 2 6	1/6	215	4	.. —	10	.. —
1893	.. £40	£54 10 6	..	512	13	.. —	16	.. —
1894	.. £40	£61 17 6	..	728	17	.. 2	29	.. 1
1895	.. £40	£34 14 0	..	431	9	.. —	15	.. 1
1896	.. £40	£151 12 6	..	975	32	.. 2	18	.. —



W. H. T. WINTER,
SURGEON.

CHAPEL ASH,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

Mar 11. 1897.

Dear Sir

I forward you a copy of
my last Annual Report.

Yours faithfully

W. H. T. Winter

The Librarian
Frick's Museum.

